

In the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Canceled)
2. (Currently amended) A ~~[[body]]~~ component according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ ¹ wherein said thickness is no more than 1 mm.
3. (Currently amended) A ~~[[body]]~~ component according to claim 2 wherein said thickness is no more than 10 μm .
4. (Canceled)
- ~~5.~~ ⁴ (Currently amended) A ~~[[body]]~~ component according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ ¹ wherein the silver extends along grain boundaries of the ~~[[material]]~~ ceramic.
- 6-7. (Canceled)
- ~~8.~~ ¹ (Original) A component formed of steel having a surface layer of alumina, chromia or alumina-rich or chromia-rich fully dense ceramic, said layer having been rendered electrically conductive through its thickness by the incorporation of silver into the layer.
- ~~9.~~ ⁵ (Original) A component according to claim ~~8~~ ¹ wherein the silver has been incorporated into the layer after the layer has been formed on the steel.
- ~~10.~~ ⁶ (Original) A component according to claim ~~9~~ ¹ wherein the layer has been formed by surface oxidation of the steel.

~~11~~⁷ (Original) A component according to claim ~~8~~⁷ which is a component for a fuel cell assembly.

~~12~~⁸ (Original) A component according to claim ~~11~~⁷ which is a bipolar plate.

13-14. (Canceled)

~~15~~¹⁰ (Currently amended) A method according to claim ~~[[13]]~~⁹ ~~21~~ wherein the silver-containing material is an alloy of silver.

16-20. (Canceled)

~~21~~⁹ (Original) A method of forming a steel component with a heat-resistant and electrically conductive surface layer, said method including selecting a steel which forms an alumina, chromia or alumina-rich or chromia-rich fully dense surface layer in oxidising atmosphere, placing a silver-containing material in contact with the surface of the steel, heating the steel and silver-containing material to at least 750°C in an oxidising atmosphere to cause said surface layer to form on the steel and to cause silver from said silver-containing material to occur in and create electrically conductive pathways through the layer.

~~22~~¹¹ (Original) A method according to claim ~~21~~⁹ wherein the steel has an aluminum content of above 4.5 wt%.

~~23~~¹² (Original) A method according to claim ~~21~~⁹ wherein the silver-containing material is at least commercially pure silver.

~~24~~¹³ (Original) A method according to claim ~~21~~⁹ wherein the silver-containing material is in the form of a sheet, a mesh or a paste.

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25. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 21⁹ wherein said heating is to at least 800°C. [~~more preferably at least 850°C, even more preferably at least 900°C and most preferably at least 950°C.~~]
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26. (New) A method according to claim 21⁹ wherein said heating is to at least 850° C.
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27. (New) A method according to claim 21⁹ wherein said heating is to at least 900° C.
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28. (New) A method according to claim 21⁹ wherein said heating is to at least 950° C.